

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /032 W  
-----190201Z 060960 /21

R 181201Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMCONSULATE MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, UR, RO  
SUBJECT: BYMNASTICS AND FRIENDSHIP

REF BUCHAREST 3582

1. TO ADD TO BUCHAREST'S COMMENTS ON EFFECTS ON FRIENDSHIP OF SPORTS RELATIONS, WE CAN REPORT THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO ATTENDED MAY 14 SESSION OF BYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIP FOUND CZECH AUDIENCE HEAVILY ON COMANECI'S SIDE IN THE DISPUTED CALL. IT APPLAUDED ROMANIAN WALK OUT AND SENT SOME WHISTLES TOWARD SOVIET PARTICIPANTS. THIS PUT NO STRAIN ON CZECH SPORTMANSHIP SINCE THEIR OWN COMPETITOR WAS NOT AMONG TOP SCORERS.

2. CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS HANDLING OF THE EVENT HAS SHOWN SOME CONFUSION IN SIGNALS. MAY 16 RUDE PRAVO IN ONE PLACE TOOK  
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NASTILY PRIM TONE THAT COMANECI AND OFFICIALS OF ROMANIAN TEAM MUST GET USED TO FACT THAT SHE NO LONGER IS TOPS IN ALL DISCIPLINES. IN ANOTHER COMMENTARY, SPORTS EDITOR POINTED OUT THAT OTHER TOP FEMALE GYMNASTS (NAMING SOVIET STARS) HAVE SHOWN THEY KNOW HOW TO LOSE AS WELL AS WIN. BY MAY 17, HOWEVER, THE SPORTS EDITOR APPARENTLY HAD THE WORD TO "COOL IT". IN WRAP-UP COMMENTARY HE IGNORED WALK-OUT AND HIGHLY PRAISED BOTH COMANECI AND UNGUREANU

(ALTHOUGH NOTING LATTER DID NOT FULLY LIVE UP TO ADVANCE BILLING)  
AS WELL AS SOVIET PERFORMERS.

3. COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE ONE AREAIN WHICH  
CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES DO NOT FEEL THEY HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE  
1,000 PERCENT LOYALTY TO SOVIETS.

4. BUCHAREST COMMENTS THAT ON THIS OCCASION SPORTS DID LITTLE  
TO PROMOTE SOVIET-ROMANIAN FRIENDSHIP. WE WHO HAVE JUST LIVED  
THROUGH THE WORLD HOCKEY MATCHES CAN SAY THAT IF WE OR THE  
SOVIETS WERE TO TAKE THE ATTITUDES OF CZECHOSLOVAK SPORTS FANS  
AS THE MEASURE OF THE QUALITY OF THE "TRADITIONAL TIES OF  
FRIENDSHIP" BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WE WOULD  
LONG AGO HAVE, AT LEAST, BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, ATHLETIC PRESENTATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977PRAGUE01299  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 BUCHAREST 3582  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, UR, RO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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